

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 10 remain in this application. Claims 3 thru 9 have been amended by eliminating multiple dependent claims and deleting preferably clauses. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

The support for these amendments is found in the claims as originally filed. These amendments are being entered to bring the claims into conformance with, *inter alia*, 37 CFR §1.75; no new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing a detergent particle characterized by the steps of:
 - i) providing a particle core characterized by a detergent active material;
 - ii) passing said particle core to a coating mixer;
 - iii) providing a coating solution of a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material to said coating mixer; and
 - iv) at least partially coating said particle core in said coating mixer to form a detergent particle.

2. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said particle core is characterized by a blend of anionic surfactants and dry detergent ingredients.

Claim 2

3. The process as claimed in [any of Claims 1-3], wherein said blend of anionic surfactant and dry detergent ingredients is selected from the group consisting of detergent agglomerates, spray-dried particles, detergent flakes and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3

4. The process as claimed in [any of Claims 1-3] wherein said coating mixer is selected from the group consisting of low speed mixers, fluid bed mixers, and combinations thereof.

Claim 4

5. The process as claimed in [any of Claims 1-4] wherein said coating mixer is an fluid bed mixer.

Claim 5

6. The process as claimed in [any of Claims 1-5], wherein said water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonate salts, alkali metal sulfate salts and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6

7. The process as claimed in [any of Claims 1-6], wherein said water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material is the double salt $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4:\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ in a weight ratio of Na_2SO_4 to Na_2CO_3 of from 80:20 to 20:80.

Claim 7

8. The process as claimed in [any of Claims 1-7] wherein said step of providing said aqueous coating solution further is characterized by the step of spraying said coating solution into said coating mixer.

Claim 8

9. The process as claimed in [any of Claims 1-8] wherein said coating mixer is a fluidized bed having a disengagement plane and said coating solution is sprayed into said fluidized bed from above said disengagement plane.
10. A process for preparing a detergent particle characterized by the steps of:
- providing a surfactant material in the form of a paste or liquid and dry starting detergent materials;
 - blending said surfactant material and said dry starting detergent materials to form a particle core;
 - passing said particle core to a coating mixer;
 - providing a coating solution of a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material to said coating mixer; and
 - at least partially coating said particle core in said coating mixer to form a detergent particle.

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